

## Drew Pearson Praises Josephus Daniels, Says 'Never Lost Common Touch'

(Editor's note:—The following syndicated and copyrighted article by Drew Pearson, was published recently in the Shelby Daily Star.)

WASHINGTON—When the last surviving member of the Woodrow Wilson cabinet achieves the lusty age of 85, and when on that birthday he still writes a daily editorial and keeps his sense of humor and his same sane philosophy on life, and when he is just as great an inspiration to his neighbors and to his family and the nation as Josephus Daniels—then that's news. And it's more important news than anything I could dig out of a cabinet meeting or salvage from the backdoor of a congressional committee room.

So today, on his 85th birthday—I'm going to write about Josephus Daniels.

One reason I like Josephus Daniels is because, though he's held high position, has "walked with kings," been flattered by admirals, been taken up on the mountain, he's never lost the common touch. He has remained just the same.

His story is a story which perhaps could happen only in America. His father died when Josephus was two years old, and his mother opened a millinery store to support her three sons. From this Josephus Daniels rose to become Secretary of the Navy in the World War I cabinet and to hold that post longer than any other man in history.

The years between had not been easy. Later his mother was appointed postmistress in Wilson, N. C., and put Josephus and his brothers to work in the postoffice. His job was to light the fires, clean out the building and later to distribute mail. Finally he got permission to set up a little newsstand in one corner of the postoffice lobby, and at the age of 18 branched out as editor of the Wilson (N. C.) Advance. From then until this day, Josephus Daniels has been, first and last, a newspaperman.

This was one of the taunts hurled at him when he was Secretary of the Navy. Daniels had riled the admirals by proposing revolutionary reforms. He had banned wine and liquor from the officers' mess. He insisted on promotion from the ranks and inaugurated the practice of making 100 enlisted men eligible each year for the naval academy. He also pushed education for enlisted men.

In fact, Daniels was such an enemy of the brass hats that finally they stirred up charges that he was a meddling Sunday-school teacher and political hack whom Wilson was rewarding for past

### For Runyon Fund



CARRYING SCREENLAND'S Margaret O'Brien across the threshold, columnist Walter Winchell dedicates a 6-room house at Columbus Circle, New York City, which will serve as headquarters of the Damon Runyon Memorial Cancer Fund. Stars will entertain daily from the front porch during the campaign drive for funds. (International)

favorites. Today, however, fair-minded naval officers who look back on the Daniels regime admit that on the whole he probably did more for the Navy than almost anyone prior to Franklin Roosevelt. Josephus said, with that boyish grin of his, that, as Secretary of the Navy, he achieved two of his greatest ambitions: To be the manager of a big baseball team and to hear a brass band play every day. The Navy gave him a number of service teams and brass bands galore.

It is significant that Daniels, Sunday-school teacher that he was, was far ahead of his time when it came to the airplane and to the unification of the Army and Navy. As early as 1926 when Douglas MacArthur had helped convict General Billy Mitchell for insubordination in advocating airpower, Daniels defended him.

"Mitchell," he said, "was sincere in his desire to promote aviation and perhaps hit no harder than was necessary to wake up the country." A few years later, Josephus uttered these prophetic words which,

of course, his old friends in the Navy didn't like at all:

"The real need in preparedness is to abolish the offices of Secretary of War and Secretary of the Navy and substitute a Secretary for National Defense with subsecretaries in charge of each department. That would synchronize defense operation under one head and would have the advantage of preventing a great deal of duplication and inefficiency which prevails under the present system."

It took more than 15 years for others to come around to this view in the present Army-Navy merger now before Congress.

When Josephus Daniels finally resigned as American Ambassador to Mexico, as he neared the age of 80, most people would have considered him entitled to rest. He had seen his country go through virtually four wars—the Civil War, which was raging when he was born; the Spanish-American War; the first World War, in which he played a vital part, and the second World War which was just beginning.

Instead, Josephus went back to work—went back to his first love, newspapering. And every day of the week, Josephus gets up at 5 or 6 in the morning, bats out his daily column or editorial, comes home for a short rest after lunch, and then sits down in the afternoon to work on his book.

I saw him not long ago at the funeral of another great North Carolinian, Max Gardner, and Josephus looked as sprightly as any youngster there.

In this impatient and intolerant world, Josephus Daniels has contributed fourscore years of serene and unselfish service. And his friends hope that he will be battling those wholesome editorials out in longhand and doing those same thoughtful things for his neighbors for many more years to come.

### Sheffield And Rouser Attend Co-Op Meeting

R. C. Sheffield, manager, and Gene Rouser, work order clerk, Haywood Electric Membership Co-op, attended the quarterly meeting of the N. C. Rural Electric Co-operative association at Winston-Salem, May 21-22.

The meeting was attended by managers of all the REA co-operatives in the state and several federal officials, with conferences held on work order procedure, new construction specifications, and allied problems.

### Cecil News

By MRS. J. EDGAR BURNETTE

A commencement program was held at the Riverside church on Friday evening at 7:30, ending a week's vacation Bible School under the direction of Miss Gretchen Johnson, Haywood county missionary. A picnic supper was attended by most of the pupils, teachers and a few friends and parents at 6 o'clock. Each group gave a demonstrated program showing the work of each day.

The groups learned new songs, verses, books of the Bible, pledges, and made scrapbooks; the two groups of younger children had drawing and cutouts. The children were enthusiastically in favor of a two-week term next year.

Beginners' teachers were Mrs. Ned Moody and Mrs. Claud Singleton.

Primary teachers were Mrs. Edgar Burnette, Mrs. Roy Edwards and Miss Helen Justice.

Junior teachers were Mrs. Albert Messer, Miss Alma Chambers and Mrs. J. P. Ledbetter.

Intermediate teachers were Mrs. Thomas Erwin, Mrs. Jim Metcalf, and Mrs. Frank Sorrells.

The collection for the five days was \$10, which was sent to the co-operative program.

The enrollment of 79 was a very good attendance and held up well except for the rainy day on Wednesday afternoon which was 59.

Miss Johnson helped the teachers in all classes whenever needed.

Miss Agatha Phillips returned home from the Haywood County hospital on last Friday evening where she underwent an appendicitis operation. She is recuperating nicely now.

Miss Louise Chambers had a dinner guests on Sunday, the Misses Martha Moody and Laura, Lou Burnette.

Mr. and Mrs. Von Rogers and children were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Howard S. Medford and family Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Massie and son, Bruce, were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Medford Sunday.

Rev. Gay Chambers has consented to preach on the second and fourth Sunday evenings in place of the general assembly program following the regular B. T. U. service. On Sunday evening his subject was taken from Romans 8:28, "All things work together for good to them that love the Lord."

On Wednesday evening during choir practice hour at the Riverside church, a youth choir was formed for those in the 13-year old or over group. Next week we should like to have enough of the younger group present to form a junior choir from the 7 through 12-year group.

Mrs. Robert Gibson has been a patient at the Haywood County hospital for the past 10 days.

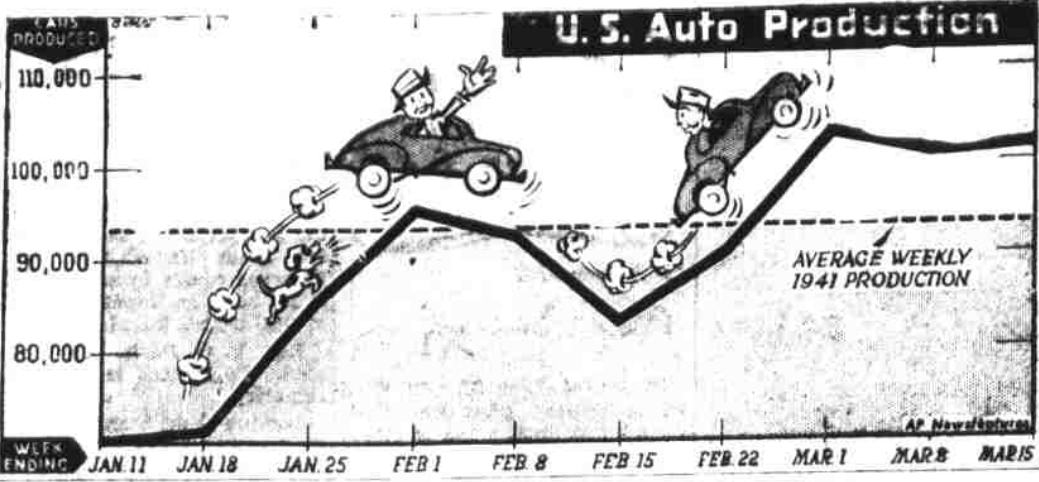
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Pressley of Canton, moved on Monday into the Ira Massie cottage.

Mr. and Mrs. George Allen have improved greatly and we are glad to report that they are both able to be up and about again.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Edgar Burnette

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## 167 Teachers Are Allotted Haywood School Districts

### 1947-48 Allotment Received From State Board; No Change In Number

The allotment of teachers, as set up by the North Carolina board of education, will total 167 for schools in Haywood county (with the exception of the Canton district) during the 1947-48 school year, it is announced by Supt. Jack Messer.

This is the same total number as the teachers allotted for the 1946-47 term, although there is a loss of two high school teachers and a gain of two elementary teachers. Teachers are allotted, in high schools, on the basis of four for the first 85 pupils, and one teacher per 35 students in excess of 85. In elementary schools the allotment

meeting will be held at the Riverside church Saturday evening. An election of officers for the coming year will be held at that time.

WOMEN OF... WASHINGTON... AFL for nonpayment... dramatic backstage... power, will vote... whether to capitulate... breach permanent... Association of... maintain to have... future labor peace... is six teachers... pupils, and one... addition to that... The 1947-48 allotment... is as follows: Waynesville, 10 high school... 2 elementary... elementary 4 high... tree, 10 elementary... Bethel, 29 elementary... school, Canton... Districts where... been made with... gain of 2 elementary... Fines Creek... in both categories... which loses one teacher and gains another.

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